

**Millstone Township**  
**Agricultural Advisory Council**  
Meeting Minutes  
August 3, 2009

Mr. Romano called the meeting to order at 7:59 pm.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

**Roll Call**

Present: (4) Butch, Halka, Pinhas, Romano

Absent: (2) Asprocolas, Peck

A motion was made by Ms. Butch to approve the July 6, 2009, minutes with a second offered by Ms. Pinhas and all in favor.

**Correspondence:** none.

**Old Business**

➤ **Farm Market**

- An article featuring the farm market appeared in the first issue of the Millstone Monitor.
- When the market first opened, priorities were for vendors to be Millstone farmers and produce either grown in Millstone or New Jersey.
- Mr. Romano explained that there have been requests for non-Jersey Fresh produce, such as bananas, at the market; Council members discussed permitting the sale of produce that is not Jersey Fresh.
- A motion was made by Ms. Pinhas to open the farm market to produce that is not grown in New Jersey provided that it is sold by one of the registered vendors; a second was offered by Mr. Halka with all in favor; the Secretary will notify the registered vendors.
- Produce that is not Jersey Fresh must be displayed separately from Jersey Fresh produce and should be placed away from any Jersey Fresh signs.
- A vendor application was requested by a nut vendor who is not a Millstone resident; new vendors who market agricultural products that are not Jersey Fresh will be considered by the Council provided they do not compete with current vendors; members will vote on vendor acceptance upon receiving the registration package along with information regarding where the nuts are grown or purchased.
- Ms. Pinhas spoke with the owners of Emory's Blueberry Farm about supplying baked goods for the farm market; Emory's declined participation because their baked goods do not contain preservatives, must be properly refrigerated and sold the same day.

➤ **Impact of Inclusionary Element on COAH Objection**

- Township residents filed an objection to the COAH plan and are requesting the Township to utilize inclusionary zoning in the RU-P zone to meet 50% of the Township's COAH obligation.
- Once a zone is identified for inclusionary zoning, all land preservation in that zone will be frozen until 2018 or until the COAH obligation is met.
- A copy of the memo that the Open Space Council sent to the Township Committee expressing concerns regarding the impact of inclusionary zoning on the farmland preservation program was provided for Council review.
- A draft memo from the Ag Council to the Township Committee expressing concerns about the impact of inclusionary zoning on farmland preservation and support for the Township's current COAH plan was provided for review; a motion was made by Ms. Pinhas with a second offered by Ms. Butch and all in favor to send the memo to the Township Committee.

➤ **Millstone Day 2009**

- Will be held on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, at Frogbridge Day Camp from 12 noon to 5 pm.
- The Council is sponsoring an appearance by Miss New Jersey from 1 pm to 4 pm; the fee for the appearance will be paid out of the Council's operating budget.
- Assemblywoman Caroline Casagrande's office contacted Mayor Grbelja regarding presenting Miss Shaffer with a State Proclamation from the House and Senate to honor her for the her achievement; Mayor Grbelja will contact Assemblywoman Casagrande's office to discuss having the presentation of the Proclamation at Millstone Day.
- Council members discussed having a seasonal Jersey Fresh display area where Miss New Jersey can speak to residents about the importance of healthy eating; detailed planning will be finalized via email.
- The Secretary will notify Jane Meggitt of the Examiner regarding the State Proclamation and Miss New Jersey's appearance.

➤ **Potential Fundraiser/Harvest Dinner**

- On hold due to time constraints.

**New Business**

- **Sunday Hunting and Reduced Perimeter on Preserved Properties:** New State legislation permits hunting on Sundays and a pending bill in the Senate reduces the safety perimeter from 450 feet to 150 feet from an occupied building. Mayor Grbelja provided a brief background of the United Bow Hunters of NJ previous agreement with the Township and expressed support for voting down the hunting resolution even though she was not in attendance at the July 15<sup>th</sup> Township Committee meeting. Council members agreed that hunting is a

necessary and cost efficient deer management strategy. Deer cause damage to crops and residential landscapes and are responsible for numerous traffic accidents resulting in property damage and injury. Council members also discussed the following concerns with respect to hunting on Township-owned property:

- **Proximity to Residential Developments**
  - The Township-owned properties listed on the hunting resolution, which are between 10 and 20 acres, are relatively small and surrounded by dense residential development.
  - Township-owned property boundaries are difficult to determine which can lead to conflicts between hunters and residents.
- **Public Safety** - The following safety concerns were discussed:
  - Crossbows, which shoot faster and farther than regular bows, can now be used legally during hunting season.
  - Complaints have been received in the past from residents living in developments adjacent to Township-owned properties where hunting has been permitted. Complaints include hunters carrying weapons trespassing on private property and hunting too close to occupied buildings. Concerns have also been raised by residents regarding the safety of children and pets during hunting season.
  - The horse community lobbied against the changes in the State legislation citing safety concerns.
  - There are no Township police or rangers to enforce hunting regulations on Township land.
  - Changes to the State hunting regulations for Township-owned property would be confusing and difficult to enforce. State regulations may supersede Township regulations.
- **Public Access**
  - Residents want access to public open space without having to be concerned about being shot.
  - The State and County own thousands of acres within the Township that are open to hunting and are not as actively used by non-hunters during hunting season.
- **Past Season Deer Cull on Township-owned Property**
  - Only 28 deer were taken down on Township-owned property during last year's hunting season, which extended from mid-September through February.
  - Residents' loss of safe access to public open space is not warranted for the limited number of deer taken in the past.
- A motion was made by Ms. Pinhas with a second offered by Mr. Halka and all in favor to support pulling the Township-owned properties (that were listed on the resolution presented at the July 15, 2009, Township Committee meeting) out of the deer control program. While the Council supports deer controls and understands that deer cause damage, hunting

on relatively small parcels that are surrounded by residential developments is inappropriate.

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Pinhas with a second offered by Mr. Halka to adjourn the meeting and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher